

Regional Council Activity Report

September 26, 2007



Executive Director's Report

At the September Regional Council meeting, we had an opportunity to discuss the unique transportation relationship we have with other regional planning agencies and the Arizona Department of Transportation. Unlike the practices of other regions, this cooperative arrangement allocates state and federal funds throughout the state. The benefit of this relationship is that it reinforces regional decision making and brings greater certainty to our infrastructure development process.

This collaborative process supports regional planning by using a cooperatively-developed formula to allocate the funding that is coming to Arizona—and the regions—through federal or state resources. This formula was developed in 1999 as part of a historic accord known as the “Casa Grande Resolves.” The Resource Allocation Advisory Committee that evolved from this process monitors additional funds that flow to transportation to ensure that all regions in the state receive their share of the funding.

Knowing where the money will go and how it will be spent gives us a clear picture of our transportation future. This advanced programming also means that when special funding is requested through the Congressional delegation, it is important that these projects be “above the line,” or in other words, funded from resources not already being sent to Arizona, which are already programmed.

We have much to celebrate not only for the relationships that exist in our region, but also for those we enjoy with the other regional planning agencies across our state. We are currently working in concert with these regions to develop a future transportation framework for Arizona. We are confident that together we can find the solutions necessary for building a quality Arizona.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.

Regional Council Meeting Report for Wednesday, September 26, 2007



Action Items

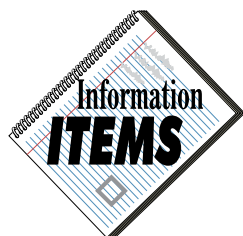
Council Supports Homeless Overflow Shelter

The Regional Council approved a resolution of the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness supporting a low demand overflow shelter for single homeless men. The overflow shelter is operated

by the Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS). “Low demand” refers not to how many use the shelter, but to the fact that the shelter does not make many demands of its homeless clients. For example, case management is not required as in the traditional shelter model, allowing the shelter to engage hard-to-serve populations that typically resist treatment.

The resolution noted that the shelter is at capacity each night by serving up to 325 homeless single men who would otherwise be sleeping on the streets. Funding for the shelter will run out in November. During the June MAG Management Committee meeting, the committee requested more information from the Continuum of Care so that municipalities could address the issue at their local city councils. One member agency, the town of Paradise Valley, presented a \$25,000 check to the shelter at the meeting.

For more information, please contact Amy St. Peter, MAG Human Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Information Items

Reexamination of the MAG Highway Acceleration Policy

The Regional Council received a presentation on the background of the MAG Highway Acceleration Policy, established in March 2000, and the potential need for refinements. Until recently, this policy was used to accelerate portions of the freeway system funded through Proposition 300. When Proposition 400 passed, the freeway system funded by Prop 300 was combined with the existing interstate system, and some accelerations have been processed since that time. In the last legislative session, the STAN II account was established and interest cost is now reimbursable using STAN II funding. This is a change from the MAG policy that has typically shared the interest cost between the member agency requesting the acceleration and the program.

The Management Committee has formed a working group to look at the policy and determine if changes are necessary. Among the issues to be examined are whether the policy applies to all highway projects, what forms of local commitment are needed, how the interest expense should be shared, and the process for considering projects submitted for a loan under the Roads of Regional Significance STAN subaccount.

For more information, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, (602) 254-6300.

Building a Quality Arizona Update

Over the past year, the Arizona Association of Councils of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations has been meeting to discuss growth and transportation issues. As a result of these meetings, it was recommended that a Reconnaissance Study be initiated to examine transportation bottlenecks

throughout the state. The study will also develop a statewide modeling tool and recommend areas for transportation framework studies.

In August, the COGs/MPOs, along with business partners and the Arizona Department of Transportation, met to receive preliminary information from the Reconnaissance Study, to discuss the areas throughout the state that would benefit from framework studies, and to provide input into a potential study process that would lead to a statewide transportation election.

An update was provided to the Regional Council on these efforts, along with possible areas for framework studies. The framework studies will be partially funded through \$7 million that was approved by the State Transportation Board. In addition to reviewing the proposed study areas, the process and timing of a potential statewide transportation election was discussed.

For more information, please contact Bob Hazlett, MAG Senior Engineer, (602) 254-6300.

Interstate 10/Hassayampa Valley Transportation Framework Study

Since May 2006, MAG has been undertaking the Interstate 10/Hassayampa Valley Transportation Framework Study. The purpose of the study is to examine the future needs of a large portion of Maricopa County west of the White Tank Mountains, including the Hassayampa Valley. The study is looking at ways to preserve Interstate 10 as the primary corridor for moving people and goods across the United States.

Preliminary findings of the study include recommended development of new high-capacity roadways. The conceptual network contains many intermediate-capacity facilities known as parkways. Parkway are six- to eight-lane divided roadways that can provide capacity up to double that of a conventional arterial. These parkways would form a 240-mile system that would require a new functional classification to be known as the "Arizona Parkway." The study also recommended that, to improve safety and efficiency, future freeway corridors should space interchanges two to three miles apart instead of every mile. At its December meeting, the Regional Council will determine whether to recommend acceptance of the study findings—including whether to adopt the recommended spacing of interchanges and the new Arizona Parkway functional classification.

For more information, please contact Bob Hazlett, MAG Senior Engineer, (602) 254-6300.

Youth Empowerment Project Update

The Regional Council was provided an update on ongoing efforts to address domestic violence. A recent focus for the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council and the Human Services Coordinating Committee has been the issue of teen dating violence. As part of an effort known as the "Youth Empowerment Project," teens were engaged to develop a public service announcement. In

addition, on September 27, 2007, more than 200 teens participated in the region's first "Text-a-Thon" to raise awareness about teen dating violence and to help launch October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month. MAG partnered with Coronado High School to host the event, which highlighted the role teens can play in promoting relationship safety and empowering each other to seek the resources they need to address dating violence.

Focus groups conducted by MAG found that dating violence is very common among teens, regardless of income, ethnicity or geography. More than half of teens in our community say that they, or someone they know, have been involved in an abusive dating relationship. As part of the Youth Empowerment Project, the Regional Domestic Violence Council created an online resource for teens. More information is available at www.WebofFriends.org.

For more information, please contact Amy St. Peter, MAG Human Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Next Regional Council Meeting

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the next meeting of the MAG Regional Council is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12, 2007, at the MAG Offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include, among others, a report on the FY 2008 Early Phase Input Opportunity, the 2007 Annual Report on the status of the implementation of Proposition 400, an air quality update, and a draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Hassayampa Utility Company northeast service area.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.